

Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County *FORWARD* Together



June 2015

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR



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Economic & Community
Development

Parks, Energy & Environment

Transportation, Public Works
and Transit

Milwaukee County
Commission on Aging

Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the start of your summer and have had the opportunity or are planning to attend one of many local festivals that are taking place throughout Milwaukee County. The Sprecher Traveling Beer Garden continues to be a huge success, and I look forward to its stop at Falk Park in Oak Creek on July 1st. Please join me at 4:00PM as we tap the first keg and hand out some free beer and root beer.

Road construction continues to be a hot topic, and I wanted to give a quick update on 13th Street in Oak Creek. The project is being advertised and the bid opening is July 15th. Depending on the outcome of the bid opening, we anticipate starting the construction in August and have it completed in September. This is meant to provide a temporary fix that bridges us to the projected full reconstruction date of 2019. In Franklin, the reconstruction of North Cape is in full swing. I know that it is an inconvenience for those in the area, but in the end the final product will be worth it.

Finally, I hope you enjoy these monthly newsletters and I am always looking for feedback to make them better. Please feel free to contact my office with any recommendations. As I have said in the past, I cannot do this alone, and without your support and encouragement, we will not be able to Move Milwaukee County Forward.



Supervisors Taylor and Borkowski at Froemming Park's Sprecher Brewing Co. Traveling Beer Garden keg tapping on June 3rd.

All My Best,

ARENA FUNDING & PARK EAST LAND SALE UPDATES

On June 9th, the Board of Supervisors held an informational meeting, followed by a public hearing to solicit feedback on the proposed sale of the County-owned Park East land to the Milwaukee Bucks for \$1. Feedback on the proposal, which included discussion about the County's contribution to arena funding deal, was mixed. According to the tally of public comment cards, 75 speakers spoke in favor of the deal, 39 speakers were opposed, and 24 others did not clearly state an opinion; however, most who failed to clearly state an opinion on a card spoke against the deal.



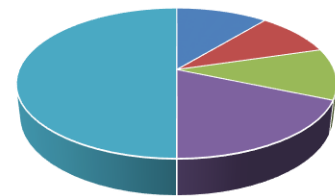
Architectural renderings of the proposed downtown arena, along with ancillary development. *Courtesy: Populous and Milwaukee Bucks.*

The County's contribution to the proposed arena project would be two-fold. First, four land parcels in the Park East corridor would be sold for \$1 to Head of the Herd, LLC, which includes the majority owners of the Bucks. In exchange, ownership would be bound to a binding three phase, 12-year development compact, as well as the terms of the Park East Redevelopment Compact (PERC). The PERC requires potential developers of this land to utilize local employment in construction, obey County Disadvantaged Business Enterprise policies, pay prevailing wage, and incorporate green space development, among other provisions. According to the agreement, the Bucks would be responsible for remediating soil, relocating sewer lines and removing over 100

The second component of the County's arena contributions includes \$55 million in bonding to be repaid by permitting the State of Wisconsin to more aggressively collect unpaid debts owed to Milwaukee County. Over the 20 year term of these bonds, this will amount to an \$80 million contribution to the project (\$4 million annually in debt service), including interest. It is believed that this funding component will not be subject to County Board approval. Since the City of Milwaukee collects its own unpaid property tax debts, while suburban communities rely on the County to collect on their behalf, Supervisor Taylor believes the plan would disproportionately affect his constituents. Furthermore, he believes if the state fails to collect \$4 million in these debts each year on the County's behalf, there could be holes in future budgets that will result in fewer services or increased taxes for residents.

At the June 15th Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting, supervisors voted 5-2, to delay the vote on the Park East land sale to the July meeting cycle. Supervisor Taylor made the motion for the delay because he wants more information on the plan and would like County Executive Chris Abele to appear in front of the committee to answer questions about the plan he negotiated. The plan will again be discussed extensively at the next Economic and Community Development Committee meeting, which will be held on Monday, July 20th.

Proposed Arena Funding Plan



- Milwaukee County (\$55 million)
- City of Milwaukee (\$47 million)
- State of Wisconsin (\$55 million)
- Wisconsin Center District (\$93 million)
- Private Contributions (\$250 million)

“The report brings out the need for us to do better. We’ve been limping along here,” Milwaukee County Parks Director John Dargle told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s Don Behm. That was Director Dargle’s response to an audit report requested by the Milwaukee County Board in response to concerns about leadership and communication at the Gardens. The audit, which was released in early June, found that reduced care over the past several years has resulted in a “tired” and “weak” appearance in the Garden’s appearance. This included “nuisance” invasive plants that have overrun some areas of the gardens; untamed shrubs covering a bench; and unpruned rosebushes that overrun a decorative wall. Furthermore, many informative signs that are intended to help visitors identify and learn about the flowers, herbs and shrubs at the Gardens are either damaged or missing. The audit suggests that this trend of inadequate maintenance must be reversed for the Gardens to achieve their mission to serve as Milwaukee County’s “living museum” and to inform visitors about native and exotic plants that are suitable for landscape use in the Milwaukee area.

Director Dargle agreed to implement the corrective actions recommended in the audit, most notably, a formal agreement with the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens (FBBG). The agreement with FBBG would presumably settle the dispute over past due rent for the visitor center, along with firmly establishing the group’s responsibilities at the Gardens. The report also recommended that the County Parks Department develop a sign and label program that will help the Gardens achieve their educational mission.



Supervisor Taylor, along with FBBG President Ellen Hayward and his mother, attended Boerner’s annual “In the Gardens” fundraiser on June 12th.

The audit attributed some of the maintenance issues to staffing issues. While there has been no reduction to the five full-time horticultural staff at Boerner, the number of hours worked by seasonal staff has dramatically declined over the past decade. Funding allocated for seasonal help has been a major issue. In 2003, Boerner’s budget for seasonal help was \$244,000, but by 2014, declined to just \$75,000. Dargle also indicated in the report that he will consider establishing a full-time horticultural internship program, similar to those at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison and at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. The proposed program will not only provide low-cost labor, but will provide training and education for students seeking a career in horticulture. He also will consider boosting the role of volunteers provided by FBBG. Though the audit suggests a degree of neglect at the Gardens recently, the Parks Department remains committed to improving its condition. The Gardens have a storied history in Milwaukee County. After being appointed Milwaukee County’s landscape architect in 1927, Alfred Boerner designed the Gardens shortly thereafter. He later became the Milwaukee County Parks System Manager in 1952. The Gardens are recognized as a jewel in the County Parks System, as they are only one of 23 U.S. test gardens for new rose hybrids. Supervisor Taylor is committed to working with Boerner, Parks Department and his colleagues on a solution within the 2016 County budget.

Courtesy: Behm, Don. “Neglect tarnishes county jewel Boerner Botanical Gardens.” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel [Milwaukee] 12 June 2015.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 25th. The most pertinent legislation considered includes:

- Supervisor Taylor voted to override the County Executive's veto, which will permit the Sheriff's Department to hire new deputies for the first time since 2004. The veto override will transfer \$1.5 million from a contingency fund to cover a project deficit in the Department's budget. The hiring of new deputies also allows the Department to cut down on the extensive overtime that is worked by deputies.
- Supervisor Taylor voted to delay a vote that would provide a \$151,000 HVAC upgrade to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The Center is now under County control, but recent reports suggest that jurisdiction could be transferred to the State of Wisconsin as part of a proposed arena financing package. Supervisor Taylor believes that a vote on a contract should wait until more details about this transfer emerge.
- Supervisor Taylor made a motion to refer a resolution that would move to Cudahy Gun Club to a different location in Warnimont Park to corporation counsel for review. This motion, which requires six votes in favor for passage, prevailed, 7-11.

WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION CEREMONY

On May 29th, Supervisor Taylor attended the War Memorial Rededication Ceremony at the War Memorial Center on Milwaukee's lakefront. The ceremony celebrated the new Veterans Courtyard, the result of the War Memorial Center's Operation Renew Campaign which raised over \$800,000 in donations. The most notable upgrade to the Courtyard is an installation of a granite ring of honor that will honor Wisconsinites called into military service during conflicts since World War I. Other new features include new educational outreach initiatives to students that are dedicated to enhancing patriotism and service, as well as a community lecture series and interactive cell phone tours of the facility. The War Memorial Center is striving to become a national model of excellence, returning to its intended aura of grace and dignity. [Click here](#) to learn more about Operation Renew.



Supervisor Taylor, along with State Rep. Ken Skowronski, War Memorial Board Chairman Peter "Skip" Pochowski, Supervisors Borkowski, Weishan, Alexander and County Board Chairwoman Dimitrijevic at the War Memorial Rededication.

WEHR NATURE CENTER

Fireside Fridays

Friday, July 10th & 31st
7:00pm-9:00pm

Experience nature up close and personal – all after dark. Fireside Fridays feature twilight trail walks, games, sing-alongs, stories and campfire treats. Register by the Wednesday prior to the event by calling (414) 425-8550. Recommended for children ages 6 and up.

\$10 per person
\$7 for Milwaukee County residents
\$5 for Friends of Wehr members



Please click [here](#) for the entire Milwaukee County Parks Event Calendar

BOERNER CORNER

Stroller Roll

Wednesday, July 15th
10:00am-11:00am

Parents and caregivers, along with their little ones, are invited to join this 60 minute guided stroll through the gardens. This month, you are invited to discover different herbs at the gardens through the five senses of taste, smell, touch, sight and sound. Snacks are provided.

\$12 per person
\$10 for FBBG members.

FALK PARK BEER GARDEN

The Sprecher Traveling Beer Garden will make its next stop at Falk Park. Join Supervisor Taylor for the ceremonial keg tapping on Wednesday, July 1st at 4:00 pm. As always, the trucks will offer a variety of Sprecher Co. beers and sodas, pretzels, pizza, and authentic German food

The Garden will operate at Falk from July 1st thru the 12th. Hours are Monday-Friday, 4-10pm and Saturday-Sunday, 11am-10pm. [Click here](#) for more details, including a complete summer schedule and information about live music at the Gardens!

Milwaukee County Free Days!
Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County residents **ONLY** with valid photo ID on the following days:


MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
FREE the first Thursday of each month!
Free for all visitors. Visit mam.org for additional details.


MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM
"Thank You Thursdays" from 9 am-8 pm!
Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of each month. Visit mpm.edu for additional details.


2015 FREE Days!
Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5
Special Holiday Free Days:
Thanksgiving, Christmas Day & New Year's Day
Visit milwaukeezoo.org for additional details.


FREE on Mondays from 9 am-Noon!
Excludes major holidays. Visit milwaukeezoo.org for additional details.

2015 FRANKLIN CIVIC CELEBRATION

It's already that time of year again: Franklin's three-day Civil Celebration returns July 4th weekend at Lions Legend Park (Drexel Ave. & Loomis Rd.). The festival will feature live music, carnival rides, karaoke, and other family-friendly entertainment.

- Thursday, July 2nd: Open 5 pm-Midnight
- Friday, July 3rd: Open Noon-Midnight
- Saturday, July 4th: Open 10:30 am-11:30 pm
 - The children's parade begins at 10:30 am; the main parade will begin at 11:00 am.
 - Fireworks will begin at 9:30 pm.

Please [click here](#) for a complete event schedule.